

THROUGH-CARE UPDATE

Throughcare support is the assistance that is provided to people before and after they leave from prison to help them reintegrate back into the community. It is an important factor in reducing reoffending.

This service is usually delivered by Scottish Prison Service Throughcare Support Officers but, faced with an increasing prison population and staffing pressures within the service, it

was suspended in September 2019.

In response, third-sector services that are already active in this area, 'New Routes' and 'Shine', have widened the criteria for accessing their respective services. New Routes has opened up their mentoring service to male short-sentence prisoners of all ages (instead of just focussing on 18-25 year-olds) and Shine, which supports women of all ages on

short sentences, will also be responding to any rise in numbers of women seeking support upon completion of short prison sentences.

Engagement with these services is voluntary and is not available to long sentence and schedule 1 prisoners.

We plan to have presentations on the New Routes and Shine services at our February Partnership meeting.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP



Local agencies, members of Moray's Violence against Women Partnership, organised a conference to launch the partnership's 19 November, just ahead of the annual global 'Sixteen days of activism against gender-based violence' campaign.

The theme of the day was coercive control and the implications of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. Speakers included

Anne Marie Hicks, the National Procurator Fiscal for Domestic Abuse, and Joanna McLaughlin, the National Coordinator for Violence against Women and Girls. Ryan Hart also gave a harrowing account of his own experience – his mother and sister were killed by his controlling father in 2016.

The Partnership is now developing an action plan to progress its new strategy.

MEETING DATES IN 2020



All meetings are at 11.00 am in the Committee Room at Moray Council HQ.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Are there any events, changes or initiatives within your organisation that will be of interest to community justice partners?

If so, please tell us and we can publicise them here.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

The monthly **Safer Communities and Justice Brief** from the Scottish Government's Justice Analytical Service contains useful information at a national level on a range of issues like crime, policing, drugs, court disposals, prison and community sentences. It also includes a special feature, 'Back page topics', on a different theme each month.

Email Alan.Fleming@gov.scot if you like to be added to the mailing list for the brief.

INFORMATION FOR SHERIFFS

We are currently compiling information on the various services that are available within Moray.

The data will be collated by Community Justice Scotland and stored in a national database that will be accessible by Sheriffs, enabling them to see what is available in each partnership area.

This initiative aims to increase the Courts' confidence in community sentences and reduce the incidence of short-term prison sentences.

SECOND CHANCERS

Second Chancers is Community Justice Scotland's marketing campaign aimed at building public confidence in community justice as an effective sentencing option.

Research commissioned by CJS suggests that few people know what community justice is, when and why it is used and how it benefits local communities. Second Chancers aims to

change that.

The marketing material comprises audio stories and films. Phase 1 used 6 stories and 5 films in which people recounted their direct experience of the justice system. CJS has now launched Phase 2 of their campaign, 8 audio stories told by professionals who engage with people in the justice system: a doctor, teacher, police of-

ficer, addictions mentor, youth worker, nurse, social worker and sheriff.

Moray played host to the touring exhibition in December 2018 (Elgin Library) and October 2019 (Moray College UHI).

All of the Second Chancers material can be found at www.secondchancers.tv/stories.

THE IMPACT OF IMPRISONMENT

On one of the school 'in-service' days in November, Caroline Cooper, Families Outside's Regional Family Support Coordinator, and Jennifer Cuthbert, Scottish Prison Service Family Contact Officer, delivered CPD training to 42 Education staff at Beechbrae.

The event looked at the impact of imprisonment of a family member on others and an overview of the practicalities of visiting a loved one in prison.

The training received tremendous feedback from attendees so a big 'thank you' to Families Outside and the Scottish Prison Service for making this event possible.

Families Outside's 'Coming Home' booklet is a practical guide that helps people to prepare for the release of a family member. It can be found here:

www.familiesoutside.org.uk/content/uploads/2019/08/Coming-Home-Aug-2019.pdf



Education staff at the Beechbrae event